

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were pending when last examined, with Claim 36 being previously withdrawn from consideration. With this Response, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 16-21, 30, 31, and 35, and cancelled Claims 37-48. The amendments and cancellations to the claims are expressed in the detailed listing above.

Examiner's Response to Arguments

Applicants respectfully appreciate the Examiner's Response to the Applicants' previous arguments. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited references and overcome the rejection of the claims, as discussed herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 37-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. According to the Examiner, "[t]he claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention."

Claims 37-42 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

Claims 37-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As discussed above, Claims 37-42 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims. Furthermore, Claims 43-48 have also been cancelled, thus rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,444,663 issued to Furuno et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,222 issued to Yaklin. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites, “A voltage detector comprising: a voltage following circuit connected to a power supply and operable to follow a voltage value of the power supply; a selectable threshold point circuit connected to the voltage following circuit and operable to provide one of a plurality of values for a threshold point of the power supply without using a reference voltage; and a switch circuit coupled to the selectable threshold point circuit and the voltage following circuit, the switch circuit cooperating with the selectable threshold point circuit to generate an output indicating whether the value of the power supply has increased above or decreased below the provided value for the threshold point in response to the followed value of the power supply.” Such claimed invention is not disclosed or taught by Furuno et al. or Yaklin. Thus, Claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference.

The invention as claimed provides numerous advantages over the prior art. Applicants have recognized various problems in the prior art. Applicants have recognized that: “Another problem with previously developed technologies is that the individual power monitoring circuit chips and microprocessor reset circuit chips themselves are too large to fit inside small portable electronic devices, which are becoming smaller and smaller. One reason for this is that both types of chips require a circuit that generates a reference voltage from which a threshold point value is derived. This reference voltage generation circuit is relatively large and thus increases the size of the individual chips.” Present Application, p. 2, lns. 10-15.

The claimed embodiments of the invention address such problem of the prior art. As claimed, the voltage detector includes “a selectable threshold point circuit connected to the voltage following circuit and operable to provide one of a plurality of values for a threshold

point of the power supply without using a reference voltage.” This is distinct from the systems and techniques of Furuno et al. and Yaklin, both of which use a reference voltage--see, e.g., FIG. 2 of Furuno et al. and FIG. 10 of Yaklin – per the admitted prior art of the Applicants. As such, the cited references, taken separately or in combination, do not teach or suggest the Applicants’ claimed invention.

Accordingly, the cited references do not make obvious Applicants’ Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Likewise, Applicants’ Claim 16, as amended, recites in pertinent part, “A method for detecting a voltage level performed in a circuit, the method comprising: providing one of a plurality of values for a threshold point for a power supply without using a reference voltage....” Applicants’ Claim 21, as amended, recites in pertinent part, “A system comprising: ... a selectable threshold point circuit connected to the voltage following circuit and operable to provide one of a plurality of values for a threshold point of the power supply without using a reference voltage....” Claims 16 and 21 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 16, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and these claims be allowed. Each of Claims 2-15, 17-24, and 26-35 depend from one of Claims 1, 16, and 21 and include further limitations. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 2-15, 17-24, and 26-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

The Examiner rejected Claims 37 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.5,132,565 issued to Kuzumoto. In addition, the Examiner rejected Claims 38-42 and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuzumoto, and further in view of Yaklin. The Examiner also rejected Claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a Fujitsu Semiconductor Data Sheet entitled “ASSP Power Supply Monitor MB3771” in view of Yaklin.

As discussed above, Claims 37-48 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

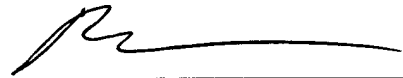
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

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Respectfully submitted,

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